

“Bilingual Storytime for Gringos”



BILINGUAL STORYTIME FORMATS

Format 1—Alternating Languages

- The book is read one page at a time; first read the page in one language and then read the same page in the other language.
- This format works best with two people—two voices.
- Good books: *A bicycle for Rosaura / Rosaura en bicicleta* by Daniel Barbot.

Format 2—One at a Time

- The entire book is read in one language and then the same book is read in the other language.
- This format works best with short stories and short songs. It is preferably done with two people, but can be done by one person.
- Good books: *I hear a noise* by Diane Goode. *10 little rubber ducks / 10 patitos de goma* by Eric Carle.
Good songs: *Good morning / Buenos días* by José Luis Orozco
- NOTE: A variation of One at a Time is to read one entire book in one language and then a different book in the other language. This works well with older bilingual audiences; one person can read both languages.

Format 3—Dominant Language

- The book is read predominantly in one language with key words or phrases repeated (emphasized) in the other language.
- This format works very well when the reader is not fluent in the second language, but is willing to learn key words or phrases.
- Good books: *Uno, dos, tres / One, two, three* by Pat Mora. *Chato's kitchen* by Gary Soto. *Fiesta fiasco* by Ann Whitford Paul.

Format 4—Code-Switching

- The book is presented by switching from one language to the other while still maintaining the grammatical consistency of both languages.
- This format works best with one bilingual reader comfortable switching languages back and forth.
- Good books: *Borreguita and the coyote* by Verna Aardema.